

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,  
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut  
Chairman

B-372 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2548  
Fax: 202-225-2382

**\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\***

For Immediate Release  
February 22, 2006

Contact: Robert Briggs

**Shays Panel to Examine Public Health Response to 9/11 Attacks**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations today announced the Subcommittee will convene an oversight hearing to assess efforts to address public health effects of the 9/11 attacks.

The hearing, entitled *Progress Since 9/11: Protecting Public Health and Safety Against Terrorist Attack*, will take place on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-14), a Member of the Subcommittee, asked the House Government Reform Committee panel to examine programs to address the public health impacts of the World Trade Center attacks.

"Federal, state and local public health agencies struggled to identify, diagnose and care for the delayed casualties of the 9/11 attacks," Shays said. "We want to assess the monitoring programs in place and ask if lessons learned are being use to improve the public health response to the next attack."

"Thousands of responders, employees and residents worked and lived in the toxic soup around Ground Zero following 9/11," Maloney added. "We need to know why those that are sick from their exposure to ground zero aren't getting the medical monitoring and treatment that they need and deserve."

Invited witnesses include state and city officials, representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Government Accountability Office, the Medical Co-Director of the Mount Sinai Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and Ground Zero workers.

Committee on Government Reform  
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations  
"Progress Since 9/11: Protecting Public Health and Safety Against Terrorist Attacks"  
(February 28, 2006)  
Witness List

PANEL ONE

**Ms. Cynthia Bascetta**  
Director, Health Care  
Government Accountability Office

**Mr. Ronaldo Vega**  
Architect

**Mr. Marvin Bethea**  
NYC Paramedic

**Dr. Stephen M. Levin**  
Co-Director of the World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program  
Medical Director of the Mount Sinai –Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine

**Dr. Kerry J. Kelly**  
FDNY Chief Medical Officer, Bureau of Health Services  
Co-Director FDNY-WTC Medical Program FDNY

PANEL TWO

**Dr. John Howard**  
Director  
National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOSH)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)